

Remarks

The following remarks are responsive to the Examiner's rejection in the Final Office Action dated September 3, 2008.

Status of the Claims

Claims 20 and 40 are pending. Claims 41-45 are added herein.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 20 is amended to specify that the conductivity of the buffer layer has a value of less than 1×10^{-3} S/cm. Support for this amendment is found on page 7, lines 29-33. Claims 41-44 are added to recite lower conductivity values for alternative embodiments. Support for this can be found at, inter alia., Table 1, pages 18-19. Claim 45 is added to recite that the acid/base salt is PANi/PAAMPSA. This is supported at page 5, lines 18-28 and in Invention Examples 1-4. No new matter is introduced.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. § 102 / § 103

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Elschner et al., U.S. Patent 5,917,279 ("Elschner"). Applicant respectfully asserts that this rejection is overcome by the foregoing amendment to Claim 20 and that the additional amendments further patentably define over Elschner.

The Examiner has stated that the electrically conductive polymer of Applicant's Claim 20 is not distinguishable over the polymer binders of Elschner. Applicant respectfully submits that the conductivity value inserted into amended Claim 20 overcomes this assertion. In addition, Applicant has taught that electrically semi-conductive inorganic nanoparticles incorporated into an electrically conductive polymer matrix as described in Applicant's disclosure has the unexpected result of reducing the conductivity of the polymer film. See paragraph bridging pages 12-13.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing comprises a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Should the Examiner have questions about the status of the application or the contents of this paper, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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